



UNCLAIMED MONEY

What is Unclaimed Money?

The County Auditor's Office, as one of its many duties, works to return unclaimed money to the rightful owners. The unclaimed money may be the result of a check being returned to the county as undeliverable or a check that has not been cashed after a certain period. Unclaimed money is money that has been abandoned by the owner for one or more years. Some examples of money that can become abandoned are:

- Payroll checks
- Vendor checks
- Overpayments
- Refund checks

Free Service From Collin County

This is a free service - there is never a fee for claiming your property. One out of eight people nationally have unclaimed property somewhere. Why not check to see if Collin County has unclaimed money that belongs to you?

Why Does The County Have Unclaimed Property?

We report personal property that is considered abandoned or unclaimed and that exceeds \$100 to the state annually as of November 1, as required by the state unclaimed property law. Amounts less than \$100 are kept by the county in a separate accounting fund. Amounts under \$10 are not kept separate and are transferred to the General Fund each year.

The County Auditor administers the County Unclaimed Property Program. Property is turned over to the Auditor's office annually when the owner's whereabouts are unknown and the property has been inactive on the books of the reporting agency or department after the appropriate abandonment period has expired.

Is There A Time Limit For Claiming My Property?

No, the Auditor's office acts only as custodian for the missing owners, holding the property in trust until it is claimed. The County never takes legal ownership of the property, so there is no time limit for filing a claim.

What Efforts Are Made To Find Owners?

- A newspaper insert is published annually notifying persons of the website and the listing.

- Notices are mailed to owners reported with complete last known addresses.
- This website provides an alphabetical list by last name (if an individual) or the business name (if an organization) for you to locate property that may be yours.

How Do I Find Out If I Have Unclaimed Property?

Click on the "List of Names" and search for your name or the name of your organization; if you find your name or organization name, complete the claim form and mail it to the address on the form. Provide as much information as possible so that we may research your claim.

How Does The Claim Process Work?

The claim form includes instructions for its completion and describes documentation needed in addition to the form. All claim types have general requirements such as:

- standard forms of identification for the owner and for the claimant, if someone other than the original owner is claiming
- verification of the reported address if different than the current address
- death certificate and probated will or other heirship documents if the original owner is deceased

Please complete, sign and return the claim form with a copy of your identification even if you are unable to provide all requested documents. In some cases we are able to determine ownership based on the available information you are able to provide.

When we receive your completed claim form, we review it carefully. If there is not sufficient proof of ownership, we may contact you. We generally process and pay claims within 60 to 90 days of receipt.